

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-01 IO-13 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
EB-08 AGRE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 OPIC-03 IGA-02 XMB-02
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FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4528
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMCONSUL BUKAVU
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (EO TAGS SUBJ LINES)

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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EGEN, EFIN, EATD, RW
SUBJECT: TRENDS IN RWANDA: JAN 1977

JOINT/STATE/AID/USIA/PC

1. SUMMARY: FOOD CRISIS WORSENS, BUT GOR BEGINNING TO MOVE,
FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN AIMS AT LONGER-TERM REFORMS TO
MITIGATE FOOD/POPULATION CRUNCH BY INCREASING RURAL PRODUCTION AND
JOBS. "YEAR OF HABITAT" ANNOUNCED TO UPGRADE RURAL ORGANI-
ZATION, AND GOR AGENTS BEING "RECYCLED" TO IMPROVE SERVICES
TO FARMERS. INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS--INCLUDING PLANNED AMCIT
INVESTMENT IN TEA--ARE PRESSED TO BEGIN PRODUCING NEW
JOBS QUICKLY. NEW SUB-REGIONAL PROJECTS ADVANCE, AIMED AT
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STRENGTHENING RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE. BUT MEANWHILE PREPARATIONS
FOR FEBRUARY OCAM ARE DRAINING SCARCE GOR TIME AND RESOURCES.

2. FOOD CRISIS: STARVATION THREATENS AS DONORS SEARCH
FOR FOOD.

FIRST REPORTS OF STARVATION IN BUGASERA REGION

REACHED EMBASSY DURING JAN AS MEMBERS OF FOREIGN DO OR EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMITTEE TRIED TO IDENTIFY AVAILABLE FOOD STUFFS IN NEARBY COUNTRIES FOR EVENTUAL PURCHASE AND DISTRIBUTION IN DROUGHT-AFFECTED AREAS. ENCOURAGING NOTES ON PART GOR ARE APPOINTMENT NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE HEADED BY FONMIN DIRECTOR GENERAL BILATERAL AFFAIRS, AND IMPENDING REORGANIZATION OF GOVT FOOD DISTRIBUTION AGENCY OPROVIA UNDER NEW DIRECTION OF INSPECTOR OF STATE MAJOR NTIBITURA. LAST EVENT REFLECTS BOTH DONOR COMMITTEE PRESSURE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT FIRM AND ITS CORRUPT EX-DIRECTOR BAKOMERA, AND HIGHEST LEVEL GOR CONCERN ABOUT FIRM'S OPERATION IN FACE OF PRESENT CRISIS.

3. FIVE-YEAR PLAN EMPHASIZES RURAL REFORMS.

JUST PUBLISHED GOR FIVE-YEAR PLAN (1977-81) REFLECTS GROWING ANXIETY OVER HOW TO FEED AND EMPLOY FOUR MILLION RWANDANS ON DEPLETED FARM LANDS OF THIS POSTAGE-STAMP NATION. ITS FIVE AREAS OF ACTION AIM AT COPING WITH FOOD POPULATION CRUNCH: (A) IMPROVE AND INTENSIFY FOOD GROWING; (B) PROVIDE MORE NON-AGRICULTURAL JOBS IN RURAL SECTOR; (C) IMPROVE MARKETING SYSTEM FOR FOOD PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND CONSUMER GOODS; (D) UPGRADE RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING ROADS, WATER, AND ELECTRICITY; AND (E) IMPROVE GOVT SERVICES RO RURAL SECTOR (POST-PRIMARY AGRICULTURAL TRAINING, HEALTH CARE, AND EXTENSION AGENTS) AND INCREASE LOCAL SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY.

SUCCEES OF PLAN, WITH ITS NEARLY DOLS 585 MILLION BUDGET DEPENDS ON COFFEE SALES, SIZE OF WHICH WILL BE KNOWN NEXT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JULY, AND FOREIGN AID OF NEARLY DOLS 90 MILLION PER YEAR. GOR EXPECTED CCNTRIBUTE 5 PERCENT OF BUDGET, AND PRIVATE SECTOR 22.6 PERCENT.

4. PRESIDENT DECLARES "YEAR OF HABITAT."

KEY PROBLEM IN IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN IS DISPERSION OF POPULATION ACROSS RWANDA'S THOUSAND HILLS, WHICH POSES SERIOUS OBSTACLES TO GOR IN PROVIDING NECESSARY RURAL SERVICES AND ORGANIZATIONAL STIMULUS. PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA ATTACKED PROBLEM IN NEW YEAR'S SPEECH DURING WHICH HE DECLARED 1977 "YEAR OF HABITAT" AND (PERHAPS BORROWING FROM NYERERE) ANNOUNCED PLANS REGROUP POPULATION FOR DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES. GOAL IS TO CENTRALIZE LOCAL SERVICES IN COMMUNES, WHICH GOR CALLS BUILDING BLOCKS OF DEVELOPMENT. PRESIDENT ALSO ANNOUNCED RATIONALIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL EFFORT TO INCREASE PRODUCITIVITY AND REGIONAL INVESTMENT PLAN TO AVOID DUPLICATIONS AND WASTE OF FOREIGN DONOR MONEY.

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5. RURAL BUREAUCRATS PARTICIPATE IN REFRESHER COURSE.

AN IMMEDIATE STEP TO IMPROVE SERVICES TO FARMERS AND TO ORGANIZE RURAL SECTOR TO FEED AND MAINTAIN ITSELF WAS A PREFECTURAL REFRESHER COURSE FOR COMMUNAL OFFICERS THROUGHOUT RWANDA DURING JANUARY. CONCENTRATING ON PROMOTIONAL ROLE OF LOCAL BUREAUCRATS AND MRND CELLS, DAY-LONG COURSES SURVEYED AGRICULTURAL TECHNIQUES. INCLUDING CROP DIVERSIFICATION, EROSION CONTROL, PREVENTION OF BRUSH FIRES, USE OF HYBRID SEEDS, PLANNING COMMUNAL LABOR, AND ORGANIZATION OF LOCAL COOPERATIVES.

6. INDUSTRIAL SECTOR SCRUTINIZED.

HUNGRY FOR NEW JOBS, GOR SHOWED GROWING IMPATIENCE OVER
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INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS, INCLUDING FIRST US PRIVATE INVESTMENT, AIMED AT PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT AND INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. PRESIDENT VISITED CONSTRUCTION SITE OF FACTORY TO PROCESS BANANAS WHICH HE SAID WAS MAKING "COMMENDABLE PROGRESS." AT SAME TIME, HE SHARPLY CRITICIZED SEVERAL OTHER PROJECTS, NOTABLY TABARWANDA, WHICH IS TO PRODUCE LOCAL CIGARETTES, THAT HAVE NOT PROCEEDED AS WELL. MINPLAN HAS ALREADY BEGUN STUDY GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED FIRMS, INCLUDING PYRETHRUM EXPORTER USINEX, TO IDENTIFY WAYS IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY.

MEANWHILE AN AD HOC GOR COMMITTEE ON STATUS OF DOLS 1.5 MILLION INVESTMENT BY TEA IMPORTERS, INC., HAS DECIDED THAT "POLITICAL" PROBLEMS ARE DELAYING IMPLEMENTATION OF FIRST MAJOR PRIVATE US INVESTMENT, AND THAT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS NECESSARY BETWEEN PRINCIPALS AND FOREIGN MINISTRY. WHILE KEY GOR OFFICERS AND MIDDLE LEVEL OFFICIALS CLEARLY LACK CONFIDENCE IN AMERICAN INVESTOR'S WILLINGNESS/ABILITY MAKE PROJECT SUCCEED AND THEREFORE DELAYING FINAL RESOLUTION LOAN PRE-CONDITIONS, THEY ALSO ACCUSE TEA IMPORTERS OF BAD FAITH IN NOT MOVING FASTER IN PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION. RWANDAN TEA OFFICIALS CLAIM MATTER NOW LIES WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY, BUT SENIOR FONMIN OFFICIALS PLAINLY UNPREPARED DISCUSS SUBJECT IN DETAIL UNTIL AFTER OCAM CONFERENCE.

7. SUB-REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRESSES.

FIVE-YEAR PLAN RECOGNIZED TINY RWANDA CAN'T DO IT ALONE AND REQUIRES REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AMONG ITS NEIGHBORS TO SUPPORT ITS OWN RURAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. ACCORDINGLY, DURING JANUARY GOR PLAYED HOST TO A MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE DES PAYS DES GRANDS LACS (CEPGL) AT WHICH MINISTERS ESTABLISHED COMMUNITY'S ADMINISTRATIVE STATUTES AND BUDGET TO PERMIT EARLY OPERATION OF SECRETARIAT IN GISENYI AND PREPARATION OF REGIONAL PROJECTS SUCH AS ELECTRIFICATION DISCUSSED IN BUJUMBURA, JANUARY 14-15. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CEPGL ALSO FACILITATED TRANSFER OF NTARUKA ELECTRIC PLANT FROM GOZ TO GOR CONTROL AFTER YEARS OF DISCUSSING DISPOSAL OF PHYSICAL PROPERTY FINANCED BEFORE INDEPENDENCE BY CONGO-RUANDA-URUNDI TRUST FUND. FINALLY DAR ES SALAAM MEETING ON UNDP-AKAGERA PROJECT PROMISED EARLY BEGINNING FOR HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLAN AND MINERAL PROSPECTING IN ONE OF RWANDA'S LEAST POPULATED AREAS.

8. OCAM SLOWS THINGS DOWN.

DESPITE THESE EFFORTS, PREPARATIONS FOR OCAM HEADS OF STATE CONFERENCE ARE SLOWING ALL NORMAL GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY TO A

VIRTUAL HALT. OVER 350 VISITORS ARE EXPECTED BETWEEN FEBRUARY 5 AND 10 FOR THE TWICE-POSTPONED AND VERY EXPENSIVE MEETING. SCARCE GOR FUNDS ARE BEING USED IN LAST-MINUTE PREPARATIONS, INCLUDING THE PURCHASE OF MISSING SUPPLIES FROM AS FAR AWAY AS EUROPE. FRENCH FOREIGN AID, WHICH CONSTRUCTED THE LUXURY HOTEL FOR THE HEADS OF STATE, HAS HELPED BUT WILL NOT OVERCOME REMAINING DEFICIT. AT FOREIGN MINISTRY A SMALL DUTY TEAM WILL BE LEFT TO FOLLOW WORLD EVENTS, BUT MOST EMPLOYEES THERE AND THROUGHOUT GOVERNMENT WILL DEVOTE THEIR FULL TIME TO OCAM FOR NEXT TWO WEEKS. IN RETURN FOR ITS TIME AND MONEY, GOR AND PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA WILL CROWN POLICY OF "OUVERTURE" FOLLOWED SINCE 1973, HOPING TO WIN AFRICAN RECOGNITION AND PERHAPS REAP REWARDS OF LIMITED ECONOMIES OF SCALE IN ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL ORGANISMS OF OCAM. CRIGLER

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